DOE F 1325.8 e Electronic Form Approved by CGIR - 01/20/95(VB)
(8-89)

United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 10, 2003

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-107)

TO: Linda Hermeston
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager, KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Hancock Springs Passage & Habitat Restoration

Project No: 2001-065-00

Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS): 1.13 Culvert Removal/Replacement to Improve Fish Passage

Location: Okanogan County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Yakama Nation

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund a culvert replacement and stream/riparian area restoration project with the Yakama Nation at Hancock Springs located in Okanogan County, Washington. The objectives of this project are to increase the number of juvenile spring chinook and steelhead utilizing Hancock Springs and to increase overwinter survival of spring chinook and steelhead in the Methow River. The proposed project includes the replacement of two existing culverts at the Wolf Creek Road crossing on Hancock Springs with a larger, bottomless arch culvert that will meet Washington State Juvenile Salmonid passage criteria. In addition to the culvert replacement, four off-channel cattle watering sites will be constructed and portions of the riparian area along the upper area of Hancock Springs will be revegetated.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Joel Hubble with the Yakama Nation (January 21, 2002) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are bull trout, Upper Columbia River spring chinook, and Upper Columbia River steelhead. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, BPA submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) for the Hancock Springs Project to NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on May 20, 2002, and submitted updated information concerning this project to the agencies on May 20, 2003. As part of the BA, BPA determined that the proposed actions may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect bull trout, and that the proposed actions may adversely affect spring chinook and steelhead. BPA also determined that the proposed actions may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat for chinook and coho salmon.

USFWS issued a letter of concurrence on these findings on June 18, 2002 (updated information did not require a reinitiation of consultation; determination based on personal communication with Gregg Kurz, USFWS). NOAA Fisheries issued a Biological Opinion for the project on June 20, 2003 (see attached). NOAA Fisheries concluded that the proposed actions were not likely to jeopardize the continued

existence of Upper Columbia River spring chinook or Upper Columbia River steelhead or result in the destruction or adverse modification of their habitat. Within the Biological Opinion, NOAA Fisheries identified a set of required Reasonable and Prudent Measures and Terms and Conditions for the project that are designed to minimize take of spring chinook and steelhead and minimize potential effects to Essential Fish Habitat. All identified Reasonable and Prudent Measures and Terms and Conditions contained in the attached Biological Opinion must be implemented accordingly.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resources survey of the Hancock Springs Project site was completed by Mark Amara, a Cultural Resource Specialist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The cultural resource study covered all areas proposed for ground disturbance. The project site was found to have experienced a high level of disturbance, including four catastrophic floods that scoured the Methow River floodplain in the last 100 years. No cultural resources were discovered as a result of the survey. Based on these findings, BPA concluded that there would be no effect on prehistoric or historic resources associated with the Hancock Springs Project. In the unlikely event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity will be discontinued and the area secured until the finds can be inspected and assessed. The WA Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with these findings and recommendations on April 26, 2002.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of the culvert replacement activities. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has taken place as part of the Hancock Springs Project. The Yakama Nation has held discussions and meetings with local landowners, County officials, Tribes, and local conservation groups.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon Stewart 7-11-03
Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

Tom McKinney DATE: *7-11-03*
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion, June 20, 2003
USFWS Letter of Concurrence, June 18, 2002
WA Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Letter of Concurrence, April 26, 2002

cc: (w/ attachments)
Mr. Joel Hubble – Yakama Nation
Mr. Mark Cookson – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife